Re-evaluation Note REV2010-19

Lindane Risk Assessment

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Publications
Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Health Canada
2720 Riverside Drive
A.L. 6604-E2
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K9

Internet: pmra.publications@hc-sc.gc.ca
healthcanada.gc.ca/pmra
Facsimile: 613-736-3758
Information Service:
1-800-267-6315 or 613-736-3799
pmra.infoserv@hc-sc.gc.ca

Canada

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Lindane is an insecticide that was registered for many years under the *Pest Control Products Act*. The last remaining uses were to treat seeds before planting. Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) conducted a Special Review of lindane and determined that occupational risks associated with the treatment of seeds were unacceptable. On that basis, the decision was made in 2002 to phase-out the lindane registrations for seed treatment. By the end of 2004, the registrations had expired and lindane pesticides could no longer be used legally in Canada.

One of the registrants, Crompton Corporation (now Chemtura Corporation), requested a review of the phase-out decision. Health Canada established an independent Board of Review. In 2005, the Board concluded that the PMRA's risk assessment and conclusions were within acceptable scientific parameters. The Board nonetheless recommended that the PMRA consider new data and mitigation proposals of former registrants, raised for the first time during the Board hearing. On this basis, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency conducted a comprehensive review of the risks to human health and the environment from use of lindane as a pesticide seed treatment, including new information and risk mitigation proposals of registrants. The PMRA in parallel conducted a public consultation concerning uncertaintly/safety factors it applies in assessing the risk of new and registered pesticides (SPN2008-01). The Lindane Risk Assessment (REV2009-08) was published for public comment on August 29, 2009, following extensive consultation with Chemtura on many aspects of the risk assessment. The Lindane Risk Assessment describes risks to human health and the environment which cannot be acceptably mitigated.

The only comment submitted to the PMRA on REV2009-08 was a suggestion to require dust-off data. The previous registrant had declined to submit such a study. The risk assessment (REV2009-08) remains unchanged.

This comprehensive risk assessment confirms the 2002 decision to phase out all registrations of lindane. No lindane pesticide is registered for use in Canada.